

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Overview

McHenry County Board of Health

November 28, 2016

Objectives

- Learn the history of the MRC
- Understand the MRC's mission
- Find out what activities MRCs participate in



McHenry County Department of Health



History of the MRC

- After the 9/11 attacks
- Those arriving to volunteer:
 - Did so at their own risk
 - Were not always affiliated with a relief organization
 - Became problematic to emergency managers
- Underscored the need to better utilize volunteer medical and public health professionals



History of the MRC (cont.)

- 2002 President Bush's call to help during State of Union
- Nationally, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
- Partner to Citizens Corp (a component of USA Freedom Corps) and NACCHO



White House photo by Eric Draper



What is the MRC?

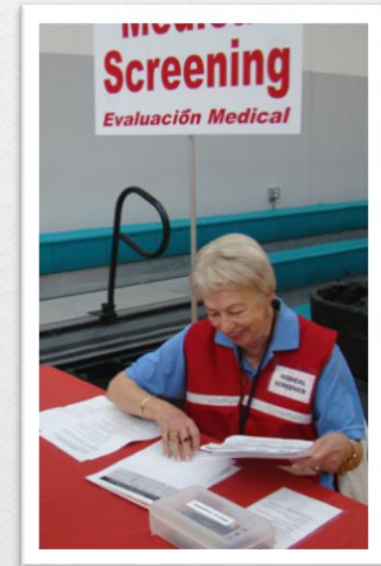
Engaging volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency.

- A national network of volunteers
- Organized locally to improve community health/safety
- Currently there are approximately 989 units with over 200,000 registered volunteers
- The MRC is in all 50 states, DC, 4 territories
- In IL there are 77 units with over 7,000 volunteers



What is the MRC? (cont.)

- Medical and non-medical volunteers
 - Identify
 - Train
 - Credential
 - Activate
- Provide surge capacity for LHDs
- Help with local health initiatives
- Build community resiliency



Housing Agencies

- Units can be sponsored by a variety of different agencies
- Most often by Local Health Departments
- Each host agency may have a unique mission statement and profile



Challenges

- Staffing/funding to manage and run the unit
- Keeping members engaged
- Liability
- Medical vs. non-medical



MRC Activities

- Trainings
- Drills & exercises
- Health screenings
- Health education
- Outreach
- Office/admin help
- Responder rehab
- Vaccine clinics
- Call hotlines
- First Aid/CPR
- Community event support
- Planning & logistical support
- Community gardens
- Deployments
- Specialized teams





Garden Connect



Handwashing Education



Katrina Deployment





Exercise

Contact Info

For additional information about the McHenry County MRC, please contact:

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Medical Reserve Corps of IL: www.mrcillinois.org

National MRC website: <https://mrc.hhs.gov>

